

# GEORGIA LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCES

1997  
Local Government  
Finance Highlights



Georgia Department of Community Affairs

September 1999

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## Executive Summary

- ◆ County governments reported total revenues amounting to \$4.7 billion in FY 1997. General revenue collections totaled \$4.1 billion, while the balance, \$597 million, were realized from enterprise funds.
- ◆ Municipal governments reported total revenue collections amounting to \$3.5 billion in the past fiscal year. Collections from general revenues amounted to \$1.728 billion, slightly less than the \$1.731 billion cities received from the collection of enterprise funds.
- ◆ The three consolidated county and city governments realized total revenues of \$509 million in the 1997 fiscal year. Consolidated governments reported a total of \$423 million from general revenues and \$86 million from enterprise fund revenues.
- ◆ Counties reported total expenditures amounting to just under \$4 billion in FY 1997. County general expenditures amounted to \$2.7 billion, a slight decrease from the \$2.6 billion reported in the previous year. Expenditures from enterprise funds totaled \$699 million while debt service costs amounted to \$639 million.
- ◆ Municipal total expenditures equaled slightly less than \$4.1 billion in the 1997 fiscal year. General expenditures for cities totaled \$1.4 billion as compared to \$1.9 billion from enterprise funds. Debt service costs for municipalities amounted to \$738 million.
- ◆ Consolidated governments spent a total of \$483 million in the last fiscal year. General expenditures totaled \$308 million; enterprise funds expenditures amounted to \$109 million and debt service costs for the consolidated governments equaled \$66 million.
- ◆ Counties held a total of \$2.3 billion in outstanding debt at the end of the past fiscal year. Counties in FY 1997 issued a total of \$554 million in new debt. A total of \$510 million in old debt was retired by counties during the year. Interest payments on debt amounted to a reported \$128 million.
- ◆ At the end of FY 1997, municipalities held outstanding debt amounting to \$3.2 billion. During the year municipalities issued a total of \$579 million in debt of all types. Municipalities retired a total of \$560 million during the year while interest payments made on debt equaled \$178 million.
- ◆ Consolidated governments reported a total of \$293 million in outstanding debt at the end of the 1997 fiscal year. The three consolidated governments issued a total of \$111 million in new debt of all types during the year. Consolidated governments in FY 1997 retired a total of \$54 million in old debt. Interest payments on debt amounted to a reported \$12 million in 1997.
- ◆ Counties at the end of FY 1997 held a total of \$3.1 billion in cash and investment assets. Since the end of the 1993 fiscal year, the amount of cash and investment assets held by counties has increased by over 50%.
- ◆ Municipalities held a total of \$2.2 billion in cash and investment assets at the end of 1997. The amount of cash and investment assets held by cities in actual dollars declined from a level of \$2.4 billion at the end of FY 1996.
- ◆ The three consolidated governments reported cash and investment assets amounting to \$302 million at the end of the 1997 fiscal year.

## County Government Finances: 1997

During the 1997 fiscal year, counties reported total revenue collections amounting to \$4.7 billion, an increase over the \$4.6 billion reported at the end of the previous year. The majority of these funds, totaling \$4.1 billion, were collected in the form of general revenues. Revenues from enterprise funds amounted to an additional \$597 million, slightly less than the amount received from enterprise funds in FY 1996.

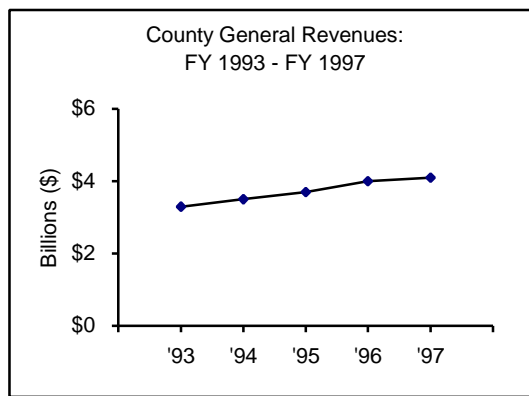
Counties spent just less than \$4.0 billion in the 1997 fiscal year, as compared to \$3.9 billion in FY 1996. Spending for general expenditures, amounting to \$2.6 billion, claimed the largest share of the county dollar. Spending from enterprise funds totaled just under \$700 million, while debt retirement costs totaled \$639 million. Debt retirement costs increased markedly from the level of \$573 million reported during FY 1996.

At the end of the 1997 fiscal year, counties reported holding a total of \$2.3 billion in outstanding debt of all forms, a small increase over the amount of \$2.2 billion held at the end of FY 1996. Counties issued a total of \$554 million in new debt during the 1997 fiscal year. During FY 1997 counties retired a total of \$510 million in old debt. Interest payments on debt amounted to \$128 million during the fiscal year.

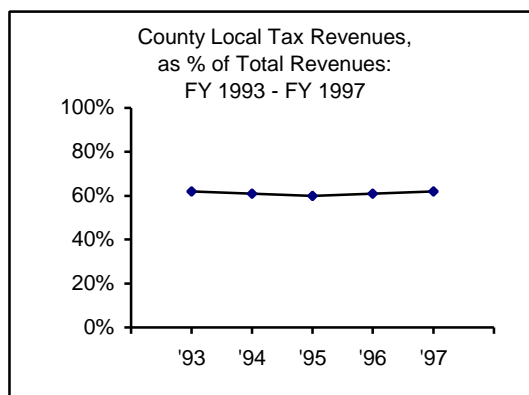
At the end of FY 1997, counties reported holding a total of \$3.1 billion in cash and investment assets, a slight increase over the amount held at the end of the previous year.

## County General Revenues

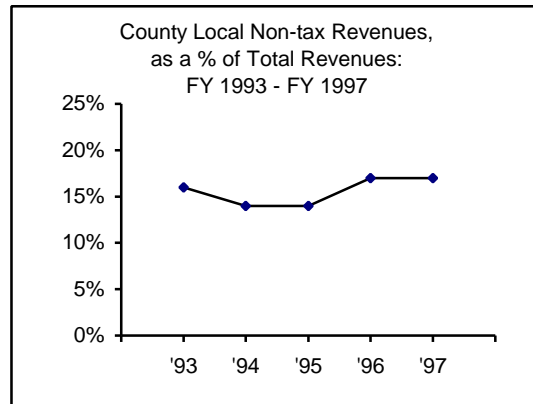
General revenues are an important source of revenues for counties, totaling just under \$4.1 billion in FY 1997. General revenues accounted for over 87% of all county revenues in the fiscal year. Since FY 1993, general revenues for counties, in actual dollars, increased from a reported \$3.3 billion to the level of \$4.1 reported in FY 1997.



Revenues from local tax sources, such as property taxes, sales taxes and excise and special use taxes, totaled \$2.9 billion during FY 1997, 62% of the total county revenue dollar. Since FY 1993, local tax revenues have increased from \$2.3 billion to the current level. Over the period, however, local tax collections have remained fairly constant as a percentage of total revenues, staying at around 62% of total revenues.

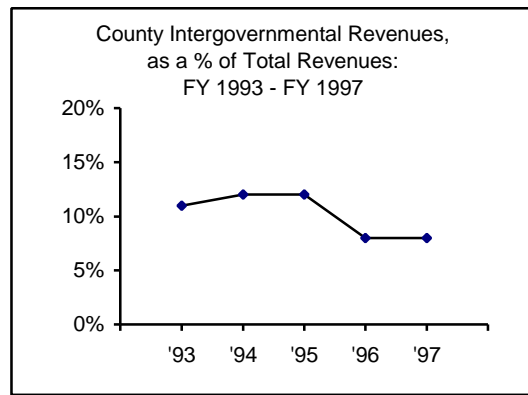


Collections of local non-tax revenues amounted to \$818 million in FY 1997, accounting for 17% of the total county revenue dollar. Local non-tax revenue sources include service charges, licenses, permits and fees, and funds derived from the use of money and property. Local non-tax revenues have shown an increase in the period since FY 1993, climbing from \$581 million to the current level of \$818 million. All told, however, local non-tax revenues account for just 17% of the county revenue dollar.



Counties reported a total of \$359 million in intergovernmental revenues in the 1997 fiscal year, amounting to just 8% of total county revenue collections.

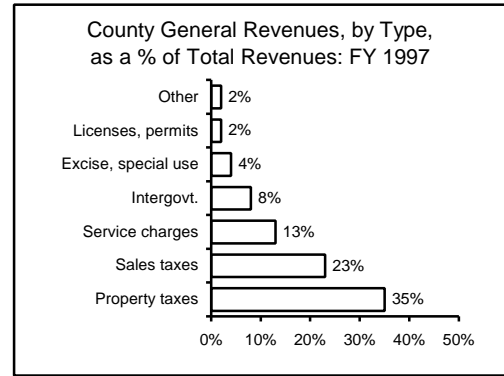
State funds received by counties have decreased from \$370 million to a level of \$281 million, a decrease of 24% in the period. Federal funds increased from \$29 million to \$49 million in FY 1997. Revenues from other local governments grew from just under \$17 million to a level of \$28 million. While decreasing as a percentage of total revenues since FY 1993, intergovernmental revenues have remained at a level of 8% of total revenues for the past two fiscal years.



County Intergovernmental Revenues, by Type: FY 1993 – FY 1997  
(Millions of Dollars)

Source	FY 1993	FY 1994	FY 1995	FY 1996	FY 1997
State	\$370	\$412	\$448	\$281	\$281
Federal	\$29	\$40	\$66	\$66	\$49
Other local	\$17	\$16	\$19	\$30	\$28

Property tax revenues accounted for \$1.6 billion or 35% of the total revenues collected by counties in FY 1997. Sales tax revenues amounted to an additional \$1.1 billion or 23% of total revenues. Taken together, revenues from property taxes and sales taxes accounted for 58% of the county revenue dollar. Service charge revenues claimed an additional 13% (\$604 million) and intergovernmental revenues captured 8% (\$359 million) of total revenues.



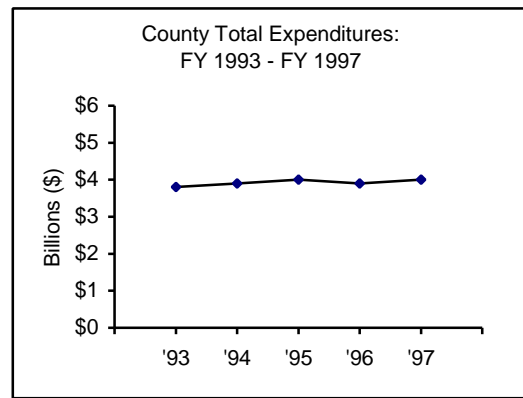
Leading County Revenue Line Items: FY 1997

Source	Amount (\$)	% of Total
Real and personal property taxes	\$1.3 billion	27%
Water and sewer system revenues	\$478 million	10%
Special purpose sales tax	\$470 million	10%
Local option sales tax	\$354 million	8%
MARTA tax (DeKalb and Fulton counties)	\$262 million	6%

Collections of real and personal property taxes in FY 1997 amounted to \$1.3 billion or over 27% of the total county revenue dollar. Water and sewer system revenues, an enterprise fund, totaled \$478 million, an additional 10% of county revenues. Proceeds from the special purpose sales tax, reported by 132 counties, totaled just under \$470 million or 10% of total revenues. The local option sales tax, collected by 143 counties, generated \$354 million in FY 1997, 8% of total revenues. Collections of the 1% MARTA tax, collected only in DeKalb and Fulton counties, amounted to \$262 million. These five revenue items accounted for over 60% of all county revenues in FY 1997.

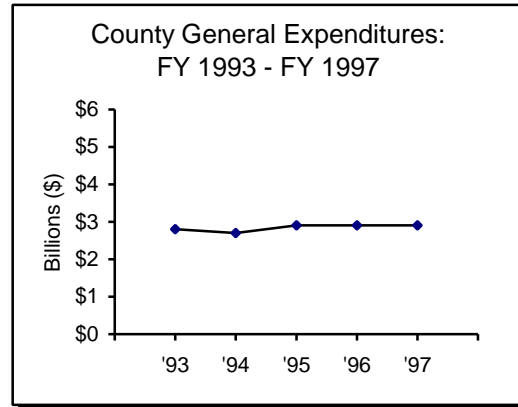
## County Expenditures

Georgia's counties reported expenditures totaling \$4 billion in FY 1997, only a slight increase over the total reported in the previous year. Since FY 1993, county expenditures have been fairly stable, rising from a level of \$3.8 billion to the present level.



## County General Expenditures

County general expenditures amounted to just under \$2.7 billion in FY 1997, only a slight increase over the \$2.6 billion reported in the previous year. General expenditures have been very stable for counties over the past five years, growing from a level of \$2.4 billion to the current level. Spending has actually decreased from a level of \$2.68 billion in FY 1995 to the level of \$2.65 in the past year.



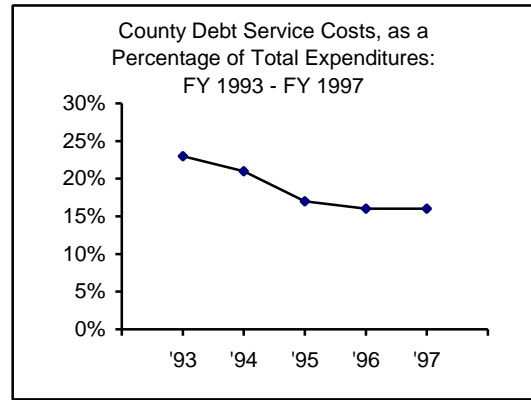
County General Expenditures, by Category: FY 1997

Category	Amount (\$)	% of Total
Public safety	\$779 million	20%
Administration	\$541 million	14%
Health and human services	\$448 million	11%
Highways, streets and drainage	\$269 million	7%
Courts	\$236 million	6%
Leisure services	\$140 million	4%
Other expenditures	\$127 million	3%
Public works	\$61 million	2%
Community development	\$49 million	1%
Education (non-school board)	\$1 million	+0%

Public safety expenditures claimed the largest share of the county dollar in FY 1997, amounting to \$779 million or 20% of total county spending. Spending for administration totaled \$541 million, amounting to 14% of total expenditures. Health and human services spending, accounting for 11% of county expenditures, totaled \$448 million in the fiscal year. Expenditures for highways, streets and drainage (\$269 million) claimed 7% of total spending while spending for courts (\$236 million) accounted for 6% of the county spending dollar. No other category could claim over 5% of the total spent by counties in FY 1997.

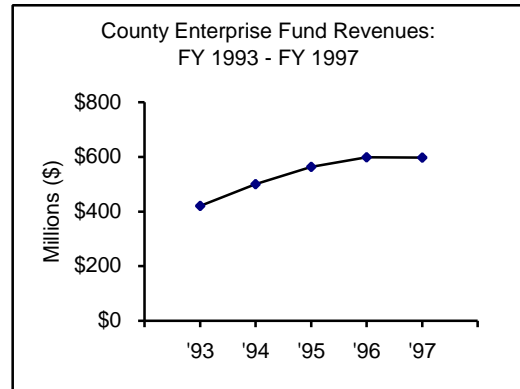
## County Debt Service Costs

Debt services costs in FY 1997 amounted to a total of \$639 million or 16% of the total amount spent by counties. However, since FY 1995, debt service costs have declined from a reported \$859 million to the current amount. In 1997, debt retirement accounted for \$510 million while interest costs claimed \$128 million of the total debt service costs.



## Finances of County Enterprise Funds

Enterprise fund revenues in FY 1997 totaled almost \$600 million for county governments in Georgia, just slightly less than the amount reported in the previous year. Since FY 1993, however, enterprise funds revenues have increased from a level of \$499 million to the present level.



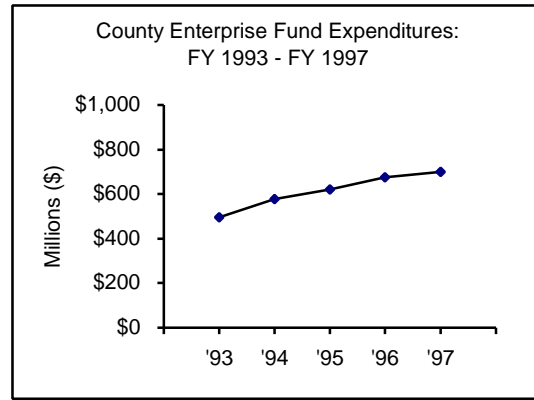
Revenues from county water and sewer systems, totaling \$478 million, accounted for the largest share of the enterprise fund dollar. Revenues from solid waste systems amounted to \$86 million, a marked increase over the \$34 million received in FY 1993. Revenues from other enterprise funds accounted for an additional \$26 million of the total received from this source. Enterprise fund revenues accounted for only 13% of the county revenue dollar in FY 1997.

Revenues of County Enterprise Funds, by Type: FY 1997

Category	Amount (\$)	% of total
Water and sewer supply system	\$478 million	10%
Solid waste system	\$86 million	2%
Other enterprise funds	\$26 million	1%
Airport	\$5 million	+0%
Gas supply system	\$1 million	+0%



Expenditures made from enterprise funds totaled just under \$700 million in FY 1997, up from \$675 million reported in the previous year. Enterprise fund expenditures accounted for 13% of total county spending in the past fiscal year.



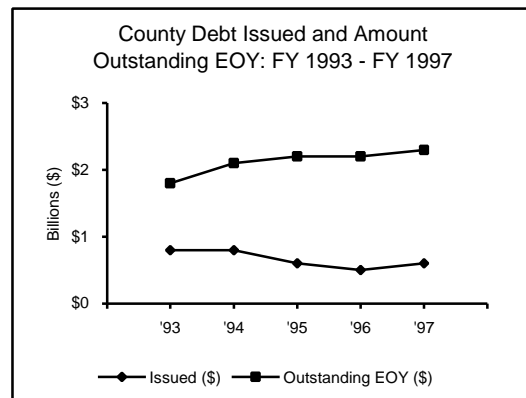
Expenditures from County Enterprise Funds, by Type: FY 1997		
Category	Amount (\$)	% of total
Water and sewer supply system	\$547 million	14%
Solid waste system	\$96 million	2%
Other enterprise funds	\$48 million	1%
Airport	\$8 million	+0%
Gas supply system	\$1 million	+0%

Spending for county water and sewer systems totaled \$547 million in FY 1997, 14% of total county spending. Expenditures for solid waste systems amounted to \$96 million, an increase from \$87 million in the previous year. Spending from other enterprise fund accounts accounted for an additional \$48 million, only 1% of total county spending.

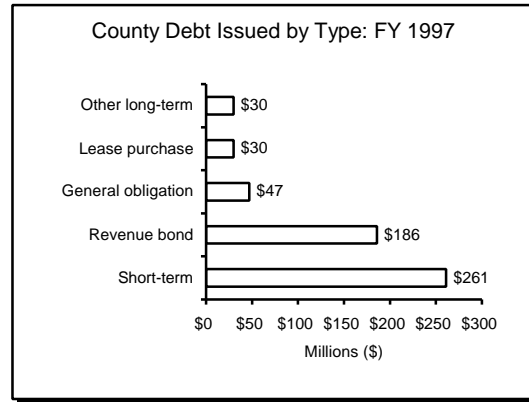
## County Debt Patterns

Counties in FY 1997 reported issuing a total of \$554 million in new debt of all types, down from the level of \$820 million issued in FY 1993. Since FY 1993 counties have issued a total of \$3.2 billion in new debt.

At the end of the fiscal year, counties held a total of \$2.3 billion in all forms of debt. The amount of debt outstanding at the end of the fiscal year has increased from \$1.8 billion to the current level. Georgia's counties held a total of \$330 per capita at the end of the fiscal year.



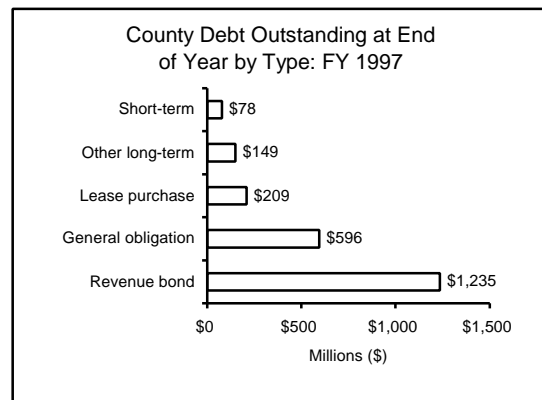
Almost half of the new debt issued by counties in FY 1997 was issued in the form of short-term borrowing. Counties issued a total of \$261 million in short-term debt in the fiscal year. Borrowing in the form of revenue bonds amounted to an additional \$186 million. These two forms of borrowing accounted for over 80% of the debt issued by counties in the year. New general obligation debt totaled \$47 million while lease purchase borrowing and other-long term borrowing accounted for \$30 million each.



Short-term borrowing amounted to \$261 million or 47% of the debt issued during FY 1997. Borrowing in the form of revenue bonds for water and sewer systems totaled \$164 million or 30% of the total issued. Other long-term borrowing for water and sewer systems amounted to \$19 million and general obligation borrowing totaled an additional \$18 million. Total borrowing by counties for water and sewer systems in FY 1997 totaled \$201 million in FY 1997.

County Debt Issued by Purpose by Amount: FY 1997			
Category	Type	Amount (\$)	% of total
Short-term	Short-term	\$261 million	47%
Water and sewer	Revenue	\$164 million	30%
Water and sewer	Other long-term	\$19 million	3%
Water and sewer	G.O.	\$18 million	3%
All other	Revenue	\$17 million	3%
Jails	G.O.	\$15 million	3%

Counties at the end of the 1997 fiscal year held a total of \$1.2 billion in revenue bond debt, almost 55% of the debt held by counties. General obligation borrowing amounted to \$596 million or 26% of the outstanding debt held by counties. Lease purchase borrowing claimed an additional \$209 million of the debt held at the end of the year. Revenue bond and G.O. debt together accounted for over 80% of the outstanding debt held by counties at the end of FY 1997.



County Debt Outstanding at End of Year by Amount: FY 1997

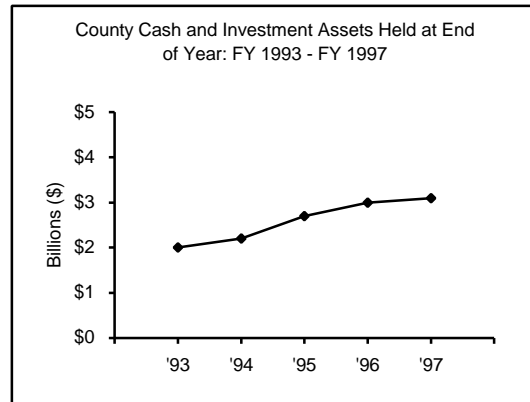
Category	Type	Amount (\$)	% of total
Water and sewer	Revenue	\$955 million	42%
Jails	G.O.	\$174 million	8%
All other	Revenue	\$168 million	7%
Multi-purpose	G.O.	\$109 million	5%
Highways, streets and drainage	G.O.	\$79 million	4%
Short-term	Short-term	\$78 million	4%

At the end of FY 1997, Georgia's counties held a total of \$955 million in revenue bond debt in borrowing for water and sewer systems. This total accounted for 42% of the total debt outstanding at the end of the year. Outstanding debt for jails in the form of general obligation bonds totaled \$174 million. Half of the outstanding debt held by counties at the end of the year was issued for water and sewer systems and jails.

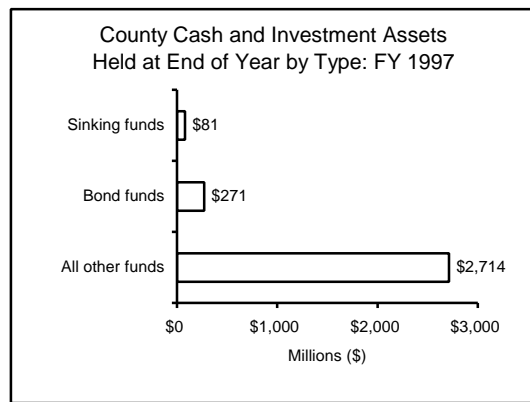
## County Cash and Investment Assets

At the end of FY 1997, counties held a total of \$3.1 billion in cash and investment assets. Since the end of FY 1993, the amount of cash and investment and investment assets has increased from a level of \$2.0 billion to the current level.

The growth in the amount of cash and investment assets in the period of 1993 to 1997 has almost doubled the growth in county revenues in the same period. Since FY 1993 the amount of cash and investment assets held at the end of the year increased by 53% while the growth in total county revenues increased by 26%. It should also be noted that issuance of debt also effects the amount of cash and investment assets held.



The vast majority (88%) of the cash and investment assets held by counties at the end of FY 1997 were held in the form of all other funds, totaling \$2.7 billion. Assets held in the form of bond funds amounted to \$271 million (9%) while funds held in sinking funds equaled \$81 million or only 3% of the total held at the end of the year.



## Municipal Government Finances: 1997

Georgia's cities in FY 1997 reported total revenues amounting to \$3.5 billion, an increase over the \$3.3 billion reported in the previous year. In FY 1997, general revenues for municipalities totaled \$1.7 billion while revenues from enterprise funds also totaled \$1.7 billion.

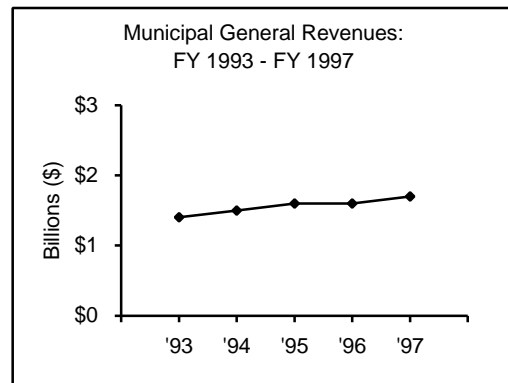
Expenditures for all purposes for municipalities amounted to \$4.1 billion in FY 1997, a marked increase over the \$3.5 billion reported in the previous fiscal year. General expenditures amounted to \$1.4 billion while expenditures from enterprise funds for utility systems totaled almost \$1.9 billion. Debt retirement and interest costs accounted for an additional \$738 million in spending during the year.

At the end of the fiscal year, municipalities held a total of \$3.2 billion in outstanding debt of all forms. During the year, cities issued a total of \$579 million in new debt of all types. Also, during the 1997 fiscal year, cities retired a total of \$560 million in old debt. Interest payments on debt during 1997 amounted to just over \$178 million.

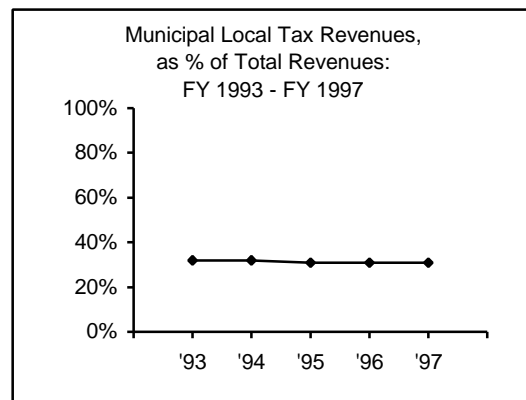
At the end of FY 1997, municipalities reported holding a total of \$2.2 billion in cash and investment assets, a decrease from the amount of \$2.4 billion held at the end of the previous year.

## Municipal General Revenues

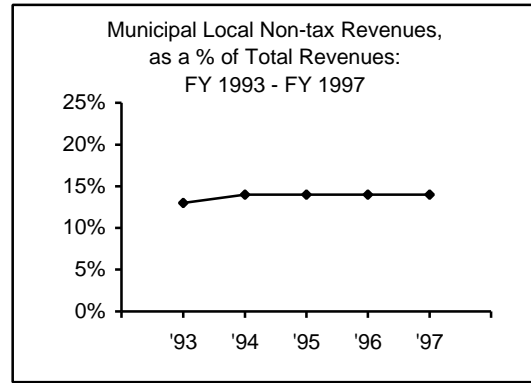
General revenues for municipalities have remained fairly stable over the period of FY 1993 to FY 1997. Amounting to \$1.4 billion in 1993, general revenues have risen only to the level of \$1.7 billion reported in 1997.



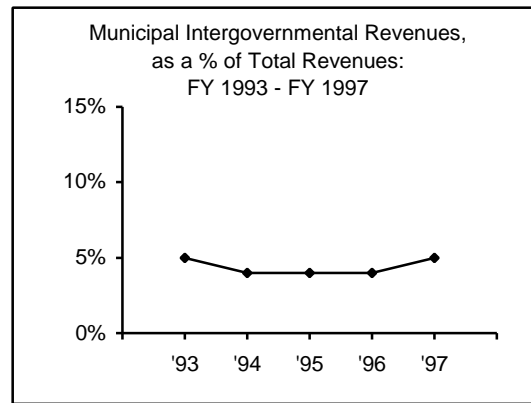
Local tax revenues, which would include property taxes, sales taxes and excise and special use taxes, generated a total of \$1.1 billion for municipalities in FY 1997. Local tax revenues have remained at about 31% of total revenues for municipalities since FY 1993.



Local non-tax revenues, composed primarily of service charges, have remained constant as a percentage of total revenues for municipalities in the period since FY 1993. Amounting to \$487 million in FY 1997, local non-tax revenues claimed 14% of total revenues in the past year.



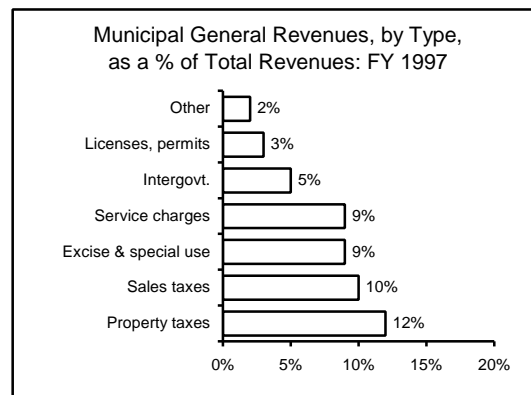
Georgia's cities received a total of \$157 million from intergovernmental revenues in FY 1997. Intergovernmental revenues equaled 5% of total municipal revenues in the past year. Intergovernmental revenues for cities have remained relatively constant as a percentage of total revenues since FY 1993.



Funds received from the state government in FY 1997 amounted to \$63 million for cities. Federal funds received by cities totaled \$58 million and funds received from other local governments equaled \$36 million.

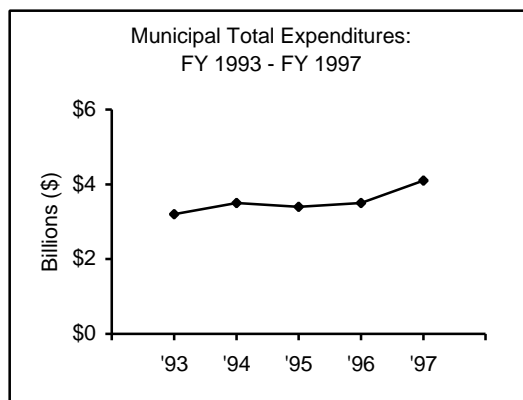
Municipal Intergovernmental Revenues, by Type: FY 1993 – FY 1997 (Millions of Dollars)					
Source	FY 1993	FY 1994	FY 1995	FY 1996	FY 1997
State	\$44	\$53	\$48	\$58	\$63
Federal	\$67	\$46	\$63	\$55	\$58
Other local	\$20	\$25	\$28	\$32	\$36

Property tax collections accounted for 12% or \$410 million of total municipal revenues in FY 1997. Revenues from sales tax collections amounted to \$351 or 10% of total revenues. Excise and special use taxes generated another \$323 million or 9% of total revenues. Revenues from service charges amounted to \$313 million or 9% of total revenues.



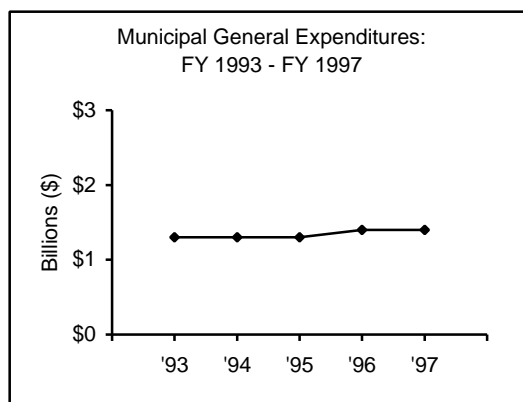
## Municipal Expenditures

Total expenditures for Georgia's municipalities in FY 1997 equaled \$4.1 billion, a marked increase over the \$3.5 billion reported in the previous year. Since FY 1993, total expenditures have increased from a level of \$3.2 billion to the current level.



## Municipal General Expenditures

General expenditures for cities amounted to \$1.44 billion in FY 1997, only a slight increase over the \$1.40 billion reported in the previous year. General expenditures have been very stable for counties over the past five years, growing from a level of \$1.3 billion to the current level.



Municipal General Expenditures, by Category: FY 1997

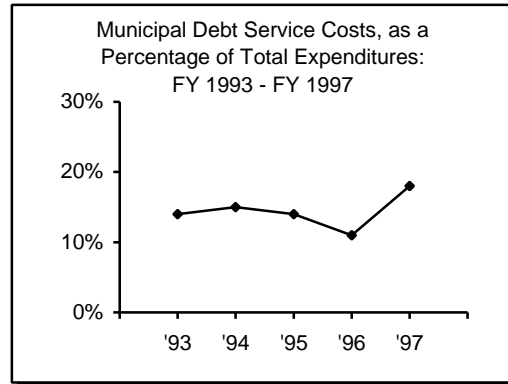
Category	Amount (\$)	% of Total
Public safety	\$590 million	14%
Administration	\$278 million	7%
Highways, streets and drainage	\$155 million	4%
Other expenditures	\$127 million	3%
Public works	\$107 million	3%
Leisure services	\$103 million	3%
Community development	\$35 million	1%
Courts	\$26 million	1%
Education (non-school board)	\$16 million	+0%
Health and human services	\$9 million	+0%

Spending for public safety was the leading general spending category for municipalities in FY 1997, accounting for \$590 million or 14% of the total municipal dollar. Expenditures

for administration totaled \$278 million or 7% of total spending. Highways, streets and drainage spending topped \$155 million, less than 5% of the total spent by cities. The top three general spending categories accounted for 25% of the total expenditures by municipalities in FY 1997.

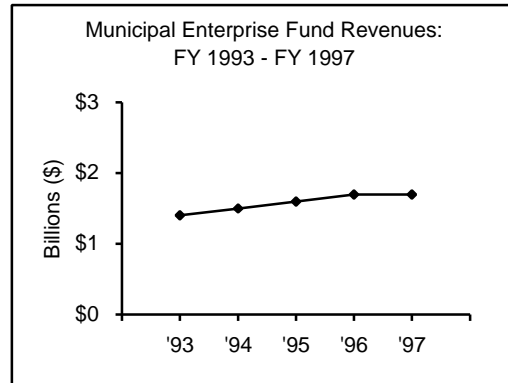
## Municipal Debt Service Costs

Debt services costs in FY 1997 amounted to a total of \$738 million or 18% of the total amount spent by municipalities. Almost 1 out of every five dollars spent by cities went to the retirement of debt in FY 1997. After decreasing for three years as a percentage of total expenditures, debt service costs increased noticeably in the past year. A total of \$560 million in old debt was retired while interest costs amounted to \$178 million.



## Finances of Municipal Enterprise Funds

Municipalities in FY 1997 realized a total of \$1.7 billion from the revenues of enterprise funds. After increasing steadily from FY 1993 to FY 1996, enterprise revenues showed less change over the last year.

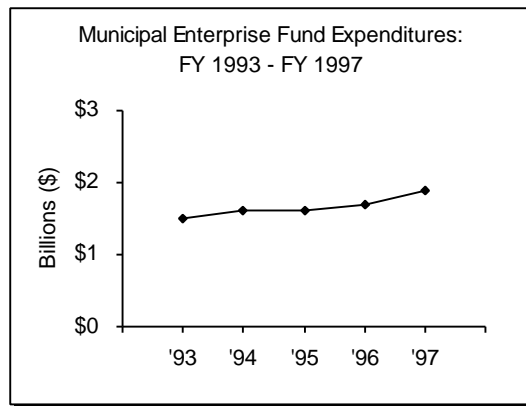


Revenues of Municipal Enterprise Funds, by Type: FY 1997

Category	Amount (\$)	% of total
Water and sewer supply system	\$604 million	17%
Electric supply system	\$536 million	16%
Airport system	\$232 million	7%
Gas supply system	\$232 million	7%
Other enterprise funds	\$71 million	2%
Solid waste system	\$56 million	2%

Enterprise fund revenues from water and sewer systems totaled \$604 million in the past fiscal year while electric supply system revenues amounted to \$536 million. Revenues from airport systems topped \$232 million, as did revenues from gas supply systems. Other enterprise fund revenues amounted to \$71 million while solid waste system revenues accounted for \$56 million in the fiscal year.

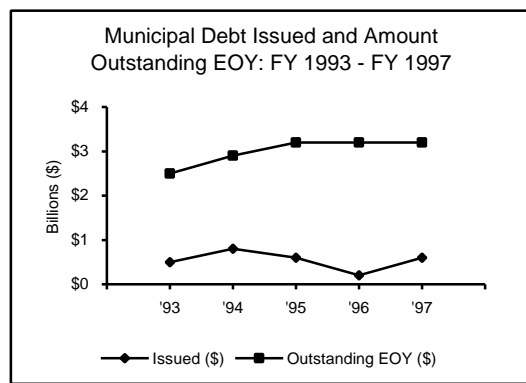
Expenditures from enterprise funds totaled \$1.9 billion in FY 1997, an increase over the \$1.7 billion reported in FY 1996. In the five-year period, spending from enterprise funds have risen from a level of \$1.5 billion to the current level of \$1.9 billion.



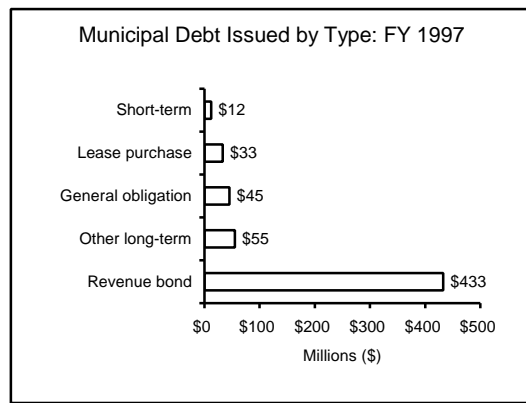
## Municipal Debt Patterns

Georgia's cities in the 1997 fiscal year issued a total of \$579 million in new debt of all types, an increase over the \$216 million issued in the previous year. Since FY 1993, municipalities have issued a total of \$2.6 billion in debt for all purposes.

At the end of FY 1997, municipalities held a total of \$3.2 billion in outstanding debt. Since FY 1993 the amount of debt outstanding at the end of each year has increased from \$2.5 billion to the current level of \$3.2 billion.



Three-fourths of the debt issued by cities in FY 1997, \$433 million, was issued in the form of revenue bonds. Other long-term obligations accounted for \$55 million or 9% of total debt issued and general obligation borrowing equaled \$45 million. Counties issued almost half (47%) of their debt in the form of short-term debt while cities issued only 2% of total debt in short-term borrowing.



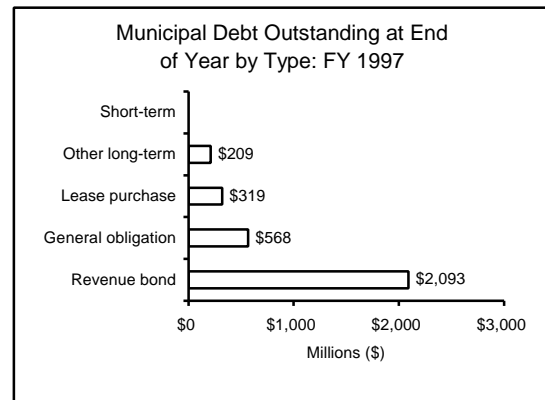


Borrowing in the form of revenue bonds for airports (\$277 million) claimed almost half of the total debt issued by cities in FY 1997. This entire amount was issued by the City of Atlanta for Hartsfield International Airport. Atlanta, which issued \$321 million in all forms of new debt during FY 1997, issued 55% of the total debt issued by municipalities during the year. An additional 25% of the new debt issued by cities was issued in the form of revenue bonds for water and sewer systems. Other long-term borrowing for water and sewer systems

Municipal Debt Issued by Purpose by Amount: FY 1997			
Category	Type	Amount (\$)	% of total
Airport	Revenue	\$277 million	48%
Water and sewer	Revenue	\$144 million	25%
Water and sewer	Other long-term	\$42 million	7%
Multi-purpose	G.O.	\$37 million	6%
Multi-purpose	Lease pool	\$13 million	2%
Short-term	Short-term	\$12 million	2%

amounted to \$42 million or 7% of the total issued. General obligation borrowing for multi-purpose uses amounted to \$37 million, 6% of the total issued. Short-term borrowing for cities amounted to \$12 million, just 2% of the total issued, as compared to a total of \$261 million for counties.

Almost two-thirds of the debt held at the end of FY 1997 by cities was held in the form of revenue bonds – a total of \$2.1 billion. Outstanding general obligation borrowing amounted to \$568 million while borrowing in the form of lease purchase obligations amounted to \$319 million. Other long-term borrowing held at the end of the year accounted for just under \$209 million. Cities carry over very little short-term borrowing from one year to the next, due primarily to constitutional prohibitions. At the end of FY 1997, cities held only \$6 million in outstanding short-term debt.

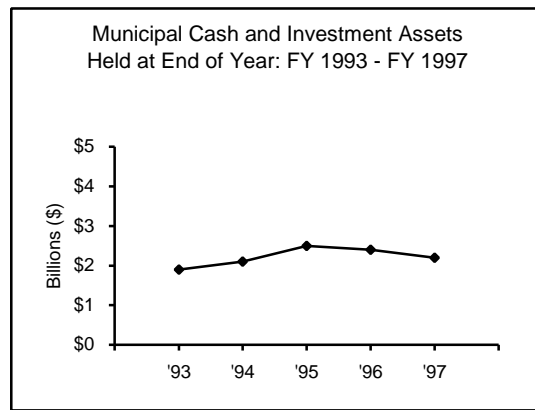


Municipal Debt Outstanding at End of Year by Amount: FY 1997			
Category	Type	Amount (\$)	% of total
Water and sewer	Revenue	\$934 million	29%
Airport	Revenue	\$901 million	28%
Multi-purpose	G.O.	\$390 million	12%
Water & sewer	Other long-term	\$298 million	9%
All other	Revenue	\$189 million	6%

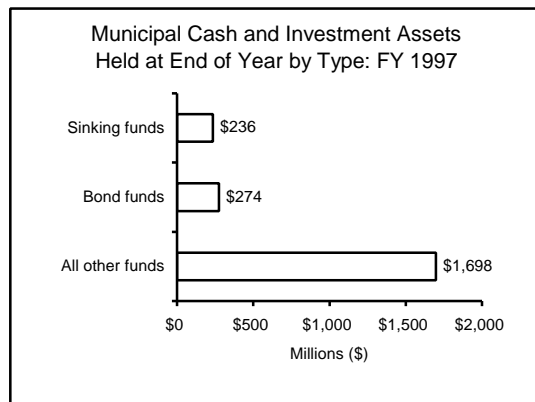
Debt issued in the form of revenue bonds for water and sewer systems accounted for \$934 million or almost 30% of the debt outstanding at the end of FY 1997. Revenues bonds for airports, totaling \$901 million, amounted to an additional 28% of the outstanding debt. Taken together, revenue bond borrowing for water and sewer systems and airports claimed almost 60% of the outstanding debt held by cities at the end of FY 1997. Total outstanding borrowing for water and sewer systems amounted to almost \$1.5 billion at the end of the past fiscal year.

## Municipal Cash and Investment Assets

Municipalities held a total of \$2.2 billion in cash and investment assets at the end of FY 1997. Although increasing in amount since FY 1993, cash and investment assets have actually decreased from a high of \$2.5 billion at the end of FY 1995 to the current level.



Municipalities held over 75% of the cash and investment assets in the form of all other funds, totaling just under \$1.7 billion. Assets held in the form of bond funds amounted to \$274 million (12%) while funds held in sinking funds equaled \$236 million or 11% of the total held at the end of the year.



## Consolidated Government Finances: 1997

During the 1997 fiscal year, the three consolidated governments reported total revenues amounting to \$509 million. It would be misleading to compare finance of the consolidated government from any of the previous years to the 1997 fiscal year as the consolidated government of Augusta/Richmond County was added to the list of consolidated governments after FY 1996. General revenues for consolidated governments equaled \$423 million in FY 1997 while revenues from enterprise funds amounted to \$86 million.

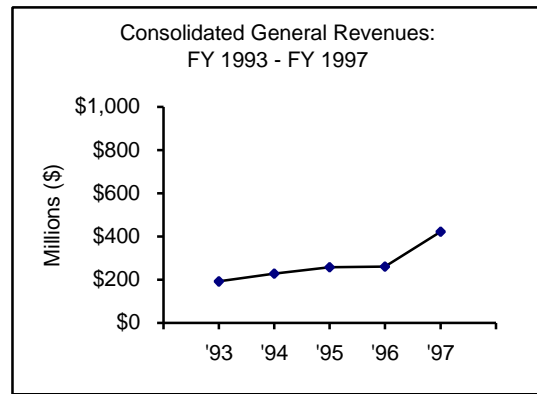
Consolidated governments reported expenditures totaling \$483 million in FY 1997. General expenditures amounted to \$308 million while expenditures from enterprise funds mounted to a total of \$109 million. Debt service costs amounted to an additional \$66 million.

At the end of the past fiscal year, consolidated governments held a total of \$293 million in outstanding debt of all types. During the year, the three consolidated governments issued a total of \$111 million in new debt while a total of \$54 million in old debt was retired. Interest payments on debt during the year amounted to a total of \$12 million.

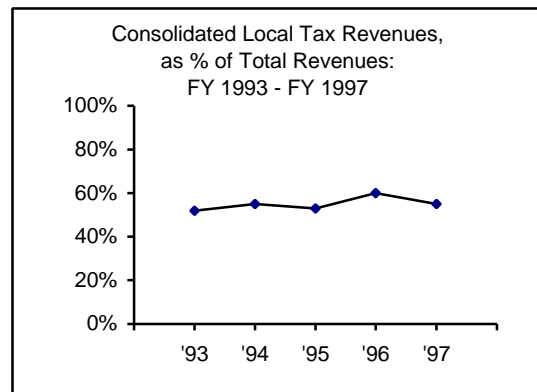
At the end of FY 1997 the three consolidated governments held a total of \$302 million in cash and investment assets.

## Consolidated General Revenues

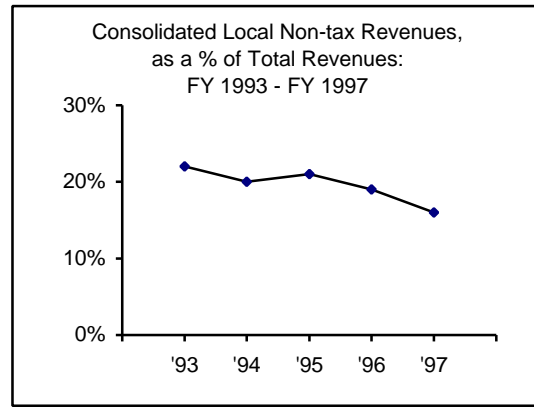
General revenues for consolidated governments totaled \$423 million in FY 1997. General revenues accounted for over 83% of total consolidated revenues in the fiscal year.



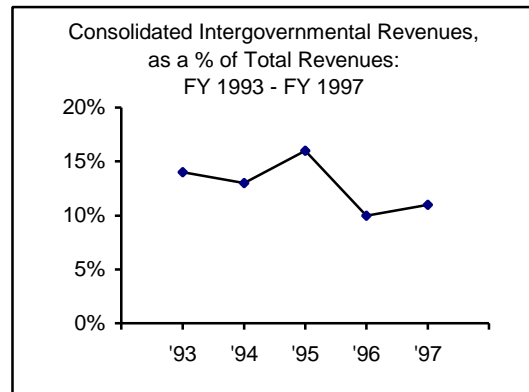
Local tax revenues, amounting to \$281 million in FY 1997, equaled 55% of total revenues for consolidated governments. Although remaining fairly stable over the period as a percentage of total revenues, local tax revenues have displayed a tendency to show some movement as the graph shows.



Consolidated governments reported a total of \$84 million in FY 1997 from the collection of local non-tax revenues. Since FY 1993, however, local non-tax revenues have decreased as a percentage of total revenues, declining to a level of 16% in the past year from 22% in FY 1993.

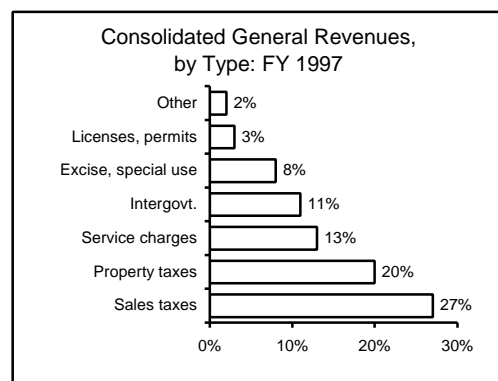


Intergovernmental revenues received by consolidated governments topped \$58 million in FY 1997, equaling 11% of total revenues. In FY 1995, however, intergovernmental revenues amounted to 16% of the total revenue dollar received by consolidated governments.



State funds received by the consolidated governments totaled \$41 million in FY 1997. Funds received from the federal government amounted to \$12 million and funds received from other local governments amount to almost \$4.8 million, due in large part to funds involved with the consolidation of Augusta and Richmond County.

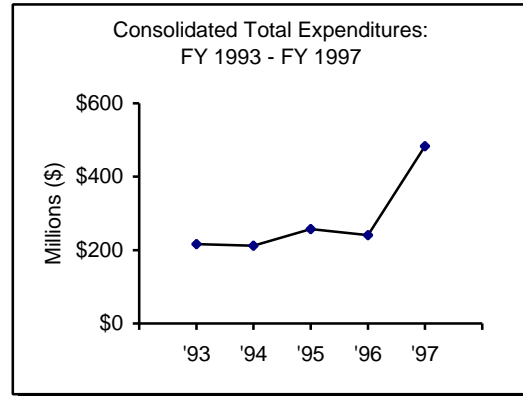
Revenues from the collection of sales taxes accounted for 27% of the revenues received by consolidated governments in FY 1997, totaling \$137 million. Property tax revenues amounted to \$104 million or 20% of total revenues. Service charges and other revenues amounted to \$66 million or 13% of total revenues while intergovernmental revenues (\$58 million) claimed 11% of total revenues. Revenues from excise and special use taxes, amounting to \$39 million, accounted for only 8% of total revenues. Licenses, permits and fees amounted to 3% of total



revenues and other revenues totaled only 2% of the revenues received from consolidated governments.

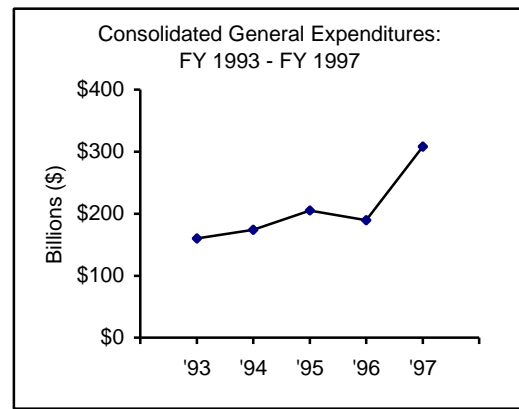
## Consolidated Expenditures

Georgia's three consolidated governments reported total expenditures of \$483 million in FY 1997. The large increase in expenditures from FY 1996 to FY 1997 is due to the addition of Augusta/Richmond County as a consolidated government.



## Consolidated General Expenditures

General expenditures for consolidated governments amounted to \$308 million in FY 1997. General expenditures equaled 64% of the consolidated spending dollar.



Spending for public safety purposes accounted for 25% of the total spending dollar in FY 1997, amounting to \$122 million. Administration spending totaled \$48 million or 10% of

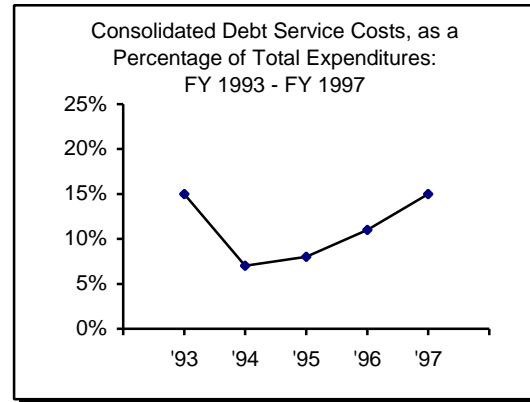
Consolidated General Expenditures, by Category: FY 1997

Category	Amount (\$)	% of Total
Public safety	\$122 million	25%
Administration	\$48 million	10%
Health and human services	\$39 million	8%
Highways, streets and drainage	\$24 million	5%
Leisure services	\$23 million	5%
Other expenditures	\$19 million	4%
Courts	\$17 million	4%
Public works	\$10 million	2%
Community development	\$5 million	1%

total spending. Spending for health and human services equaled \$39 million (8%) of total consolidated expenditures. Expenditures for highways, streets and drainage (\$24 million) and leisure services (\$23 million) each accounted for 5% of total spending.

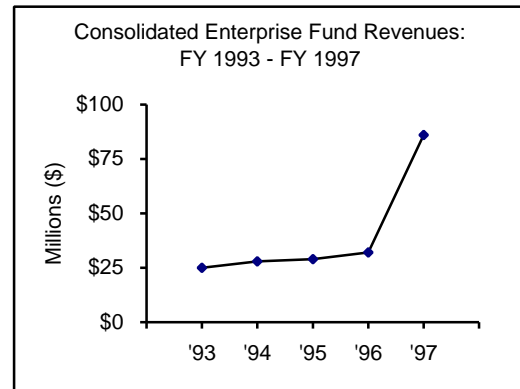
## Consolidated Debt Service Costs

The consolidated governments reported debt service costs amounting to \$66 million in FY 1997. Debt service costs amounted to 14% of total spending in the fiscal year. Debt service costs have increased as a percentage of total spending since FY 1994, increasing from 7% to the current level of 14%.



## Finances of Consolidated Enterprise Funds

Enterprise funds generated a total of \$86 million for consolidated governments during the 1997 fiscal year. The large increase in enterprise fund revenues from FY 1996 to FY 1997 is due to the addition of Augusta/Richmond County as a consolidated government.



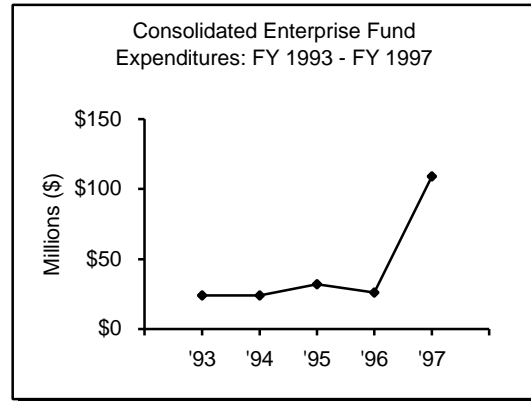
Revenues of Consolidated Enterprise Funds, by Type: FY 1997

Category	Amount (\$)	% of total
Water and sewer supply system	\$55 million	11%
Other enterprise funds	\$16 million	3%
Solid waste system	\$8 million	2%
Airport	\$8 million	2%

Consolidated governments realized revenues of \$55 million from water and sewer systems during the 1997 fiscal year, accounting for 11% of total revenues. Other enterprise

funds generated revenues of \$16 million or 3% of total revenues. Airports and solid waste systems each provided revenues of \$8 million.

Expenditures from enterprise funds amounted to \$109 million in FY 1997, just under 23% of total expenditures. The large increase in enterprise fund expenditures from FY 1996 to FY 1997 is due to the addition of Augusta/Richmond County as a consolidated government.



Expenditures from Consolidated Enterprise Funds, by Type: FY 1997

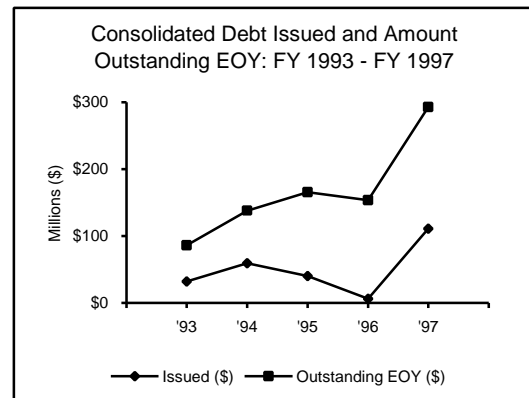
Category	Amount (\$)	% of total
Water and sewer supply system	\$67 million	14%
Other enterprise funds	\$21 million	4%
Solid waste system	\$12 million	2%
Airport	\$8 million	2%

Expenditures for water and sewer systems from enterprise funds amounted to \$67 million in FY 1997, almost 14% of total expenditures. Expenditures for other enterprise funds amounted to \$21 million. Solid waste system expenditures totaled \$12 million while expenditures for airports from enterprise funds amounted to \$8 million.

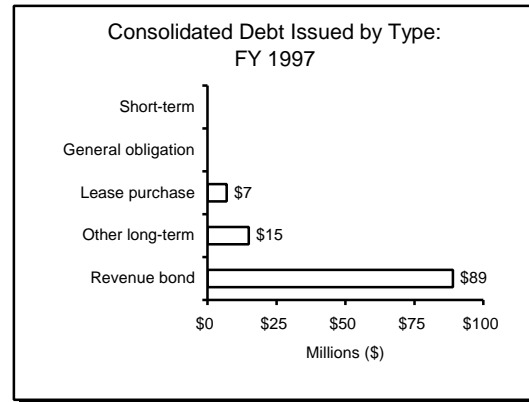
## Consolidated Debt Patterns

At the end of FY 1997, consolidated governments reported a total of \$293 million in outstanding debt of all types. During the year, the three consolidated governments issued a total of \$111 million in new debt for all purposes.

The large increase in the amount of debt issued and the amount outstanding at the end of the year is due to the addition of Augusta-Richmond County as a consolidated government.



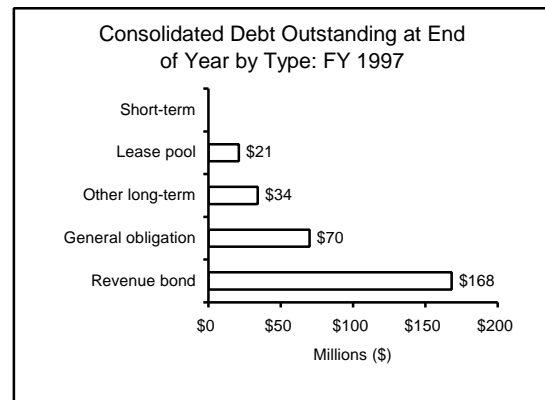
Consolidated governments issued a total of \$89 million in revenue bond debt during the 1997 fiscal year. Revenue bond borrowing accounted for 80% of the new debt issued. Borrowing in the form of other long-term debt amounted to \$15 million and lease purchase borrowing equaled \$7 million. Consolidated governments incurred no general obligation or short-term borrowing during FY 1997.



Revenue bond borrowing for water and sewer systems totaled \$67 million in FY 1997. Borrowing for all other purposes in the form of revenue bonds totaled \$13 million while borrowing in the form of other long-term debt for all other purposes amounted to just under \$10 million. Revenue bond borrowing for solid waste systems amounted to an additional \$8 million.

Consolidated Debt Issued by Purpose by Amount: FY 1997			
Category	Type	Amount (\$)	% of total
Water and sewer system	Revenue	\$67 million	60%
All other	Revenue	\$13 million	12%
All other	Other long-term	\$10 million	9%
Solid waste system	Revenue	\$8 million	7%
Water and sewer system	Other long-term	\$5 million	5%

Revenue bonds, totaling \$168 million, accounted for almost 60% of the outstanding debt held by consolidated governments at the end of FY 1997. Outstanding general obligation borrowing amounted to an additional \$70 million or one-fourth of the outstanding debt. Other long-term borrowing equaled \$34 million and outstanding lease pool borrowing totaled \$21 million.



Water and sewer borrowing in the form of revenue bonds, totaling \$114 million, accounted for almost 40% of the outstanding debt held by consolidated governments at the end of the past fiscal year. General obligation borrowing for multi-purpose uses accounted



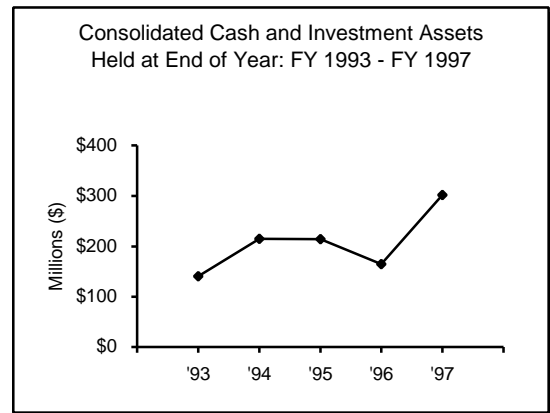
for an additional \$63 million. Revenue bond borrowing for all other purposes amounted to \$37 million or 13% of the outstanding debt.

Consolidated Debt Outstanding at End of Year by Amount: FY 1997			
Category	Type	Amount (\$)	% of total
Water and sewer	Revenue	\$114 million	39%
Multi-purpose	G.O.	\$63 million	21%
All other	Revenue	\$37 million	13%
Water and sewer	Other long-term	\$21 million	7%
All other	Other long-term	\$13 million	4%
Solid waste system	Revenue	\$12 million	4%

## Consolidated Cash and Investment Assets

At the end of the 1997 fiscal year, Georgia's consolidated governments held a total of \$302 million in cash and investment assets.

The large increase in the amount of cash and investment assets held from the end of FY 1996 to FY 1997 is due in large part to the addition of Augusta/Richmond County as a consolidated government.



Consolidated governments held over 72% of their cash and investment assets in the form of all other funds. Assets held in bond funds totaled \$51 million while sinking funds accounted for \$33 million of the total amount held.

